

Forsythe II Project
Changes from Proposal to Proposed Action
December 2015

The U.S. Forest Service conducted additional field verification since the initial proposal was available to the public. This information was utilized to develop the December 2015 Proposed Action. There has been a reduction in number of acres proposed for management activities. Additionally, some units changed dominant vegetation type (i.e. lodgepole pine treatment or mixed conifer treatment); some areas were identified as old growth and new prescriptions were added to the proposed action; one unit was changed to a two-stage treatment based on current fuel loading; unit boundaries were adjusted; and some units were dropped.

Input received during the scoping period, from the public and U.S. Forest Service resource specialists, were used in the development of the proposed action. Listed below are general changes made to the proposed action in response to this input.

1. Proposed Action Design Criteria was developed to provide more detail to management activities proposed.
2. Management activities specific to Old Growth Forest has been incorporated.
3. Unauthorized road and closed National Forest System road decommissioning has been incorporated.
4. Added two emergency egress route options at the request of the Town of Nederland and residents of the Big Springs Subdivision.
5. Added a diameter cut limit to retain the larger trees on the landscape. Diameter cut limit in mixed conifer and aspen stands was set to 16 inches DBH. Diameter cut limit in meadows was reduced to 14 inches DBH for ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir and to 12 inches DBH for lodgepole pine.
6. Decreased the percentage of basal area reduction in mixed conifers from 50% to 40%. Basal area reduction, up to 30%, in old growth retention was added to the proposed action.
7. Reduced the percentage of a given unit to be clearcut/patchcut. Proposal stated 80% of a unit could be patchcut/clearcut. The proposed action reduces this percentage to 50%.
8. Removed sanitation as a treatment.
9. Identified regeneration units with new unit numbers.
10. Unit prescriptions are more specific and detailed. Included marking to be done in mixed conifer stands to ensure prescriptions are followed during implementation.
11. Removed mention of secondary burn boundary as it is not necessarily needed because any fire outside of the proposed broadcast burn units would be suppressed immediately.
12. Removed tree spacing guideline in Zone 3 of the Defensible Space section.
13. Based on all above changes, the table below contains acres to be analyzed in the proposed action:

Treatment Type	September 2015 Proposal (acres)	December 2015 Proposed Action (acres)
Mixed Conifer Treatment	1,425	1,594
Lodgepole Treatment	1,496	1,392
Aspen Restoration	196	193
Meadow/Brushfield Restoration	54	54
Broadcast Burn	968	968
Defensible Space	1,978	1,969
Total Acres	6,119¹	6,170¹

¹ Both mechanical/hand treatment and broadcast burning would occur on 300 acres.